

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

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P R 231725Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4052

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS LUANDA 1235

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINS MILI AO

SUBJECT: MPLA MINISTER APPEALS TO PRESS

1. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN HIS OFFICE ON AUGUST 23, MINISTER OF INFORMATION RUI MONTEIRE APPEALED ONCE AGAIN TO THE FOREIGN PRESS TO PRESENT THE FACTS AS THEY ARE AND NOT TWIST THEM TO SUIT PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS. HE NOTED THAT AFTER AN EARLIER PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH THE CHIEF OF INFORMATION SERVICES LUIS DA ALMEIDA HAD ASKED THE PRESS NOT TO DISTORT FACTS, ONE CORRESPONDENT HAD WRITTEN THAT ALMEIDA HAD THREATENED THE FOREIGN PRESS CONTINGENT. MONTEIRE ADDED THAT A NUMBER OF CORRESPONDENTS HAVE TOLD HIM THAT ALTHOUGH THEY SEND THE NEWS FROM HERE AS IT IS, REWRITE MEN IN SOUTH AFRICA OFTENTIMES PUT A SLANT ON IT. IF THAT IS THE CASE, SAID MONTEIRE, THE CORRESPONDENTS SHOULD HAVE THE COURAGE TO SAY SO PUBLICLY.

2. MONTEIRE ALSO REFERRED TO A RADIO PRESS CONFERENCE THE PREVIOUS DAY IN WHICH FNLA AND UNITA PRISONERS WERE INTERVIEWED TO PROVE THEY HAD NOT BEEN BADLY TREATED AND WERE EATING THE SAME FOOD AS MPLA TROOPS. THE ENTIRE BROADCAST WILL BE UNCLASSIFIED

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TRANSLATED AND DISTRIBUTED SHORTLY TO THE FOREIGN PRESS. ON THE

SAME BROADCAST, HE CONTINUED, THE PRESIDENT OF THE BENQUELA ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN LOBITO AND BENQUELA. HE SAID THAT ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IS NORMAL, AND THAT THE PORT OF LOBITO IS FUNCITIONING. MONTIERE SAID THAT THE CRIME RATE IN LUANDA IS DOWN, THANKS IN LARGE PART TO THE UNTIRING EFFORTS OF THE MPLA MILITARY POLICE WHO WERE ALSO ON THE PROGRAM.

3. MONTEIRE ANNOUNCED THE DISCOVERY OF A COMMON GRAVE IN THE SAO PEDRE DA BARRA FORTRESS, WHICH GIVES FURTHER PROOF OF FNLA ATROCITIES. CORRESPONDENTS WILL BE INVITED TO VIEW THE GRAVE. ANOTHER EMBEZZLEMENT BY MINISTER OF HEALTH SAMUAL ABRIGADA HAS BEEN UNCOVERED, THIS ONE FOR 69,000,000 ESCUDOS. THE PROOF WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE SHORTLY.

4. I WILL TRANSMIT THE MILITARY PORTION OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE BY SEPTEL.
KILLORAN

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NNN

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